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sung in the church after the morning or evening service. And, as a carol is looked upon as an effort of genius, one, which is approved of, seldom fails to raise the reputation of the poet. The subject is, of course, taken from Scripture, and the carol is properly a hymn. Some of these effusions exhibit much poetic merit, particularly those of Huw Morus, who excelled in this species of composition as he did also in one of a very different character.

THE MISCELLANIST.—No. IX.

ANCIENT GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.

MR. EDITOR,—THE geography of Orosius, and the navigation of Ohthere in the northern seas, as preserved by Alfred, contain some names of countries and nations, which appear to be useful for the illustration of the history of the British isles; and you may, therefore, judge them worthy of being inserted in the CAMBRO-BRITON.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE IN THE NINTH CENTURY.

Thila, *Iceland*;—Igbernia, or Scotland, *Ireland*;—Iraland, *Scotland*;—the country of the Scoti, or Scotland; the south extremity of *Spain**;—Dena, *Denmark*;—Weonodland, Winedeland, or Sysyle, the *Wendi*, then inhabiting all the region between the Elbe and the Baltic, east of the Seaxna and Angle, but who are now confined to Lusatia;—Northmanna, *Norway*;—Sweoland, *Sweden*;—Terfenna-land, or the Waste land, *Swedish Lapland*;—Cwen Sea, the *White Sea*;—Screide Finni, and Cwenas, the inhabitants of the present *Russian Lapland*, on the west shore of the White Sea:—Cwenland, or Cwenaland, *Finland*, or all that tract lying east of the Gulf of Bothnia, from the Gulf of Finland northward to the White Sea.

Observations.

1. The name of *Lapland* was not known in the ninth century; and the people now inhabiting that country and *Finland* speak a common dialect, and which is totally different from the languages of all their neighbours.

* The old Irish chronicles make mention of a Spanish colony as coming to Ireland, under the name of *Kin Skuit*, or Skuit nation.

2. The names of *Finnas*, *Finnias*, and *Screidi Finni* are only known as applied to a few scattered people, in the northern wastes of Sweden and Norway, and on the extremity of the west shore of the White Sea.

3. The appellation of *Cwen Sea* is very remarkable, as applied to the White Sea, if we take into consideration, that *Gwyn*, m. and *Gwen* f. imply *White*, in Welsh: and which the Saxons would turn into *Cwen*, in the same manner as our common cognomen of *Gwyn* has been changed into *Quin* by their descendants.

4. There is a great probability that the names of *Finnas*, or *Finni*, and *Finland* are only dialectical mutations of *Cwenas* and *Cwenland*; and, as a curious fact, in proof of such a probability, just so the Irish do actually change the Welsh *Gwyn* and *Gwen* into *Fin* and *Fion*, which mean *white* in both dialects.

5. There was no part of Europe known in the ninth century, to which the appellation of *Cwenland*, *Gwenland*, *Finland*, or White-land was so appropriate, as the region extending from the Gulf of Finland to the White Sea, from its being covered with snow during a great part of the year.

6. Names, descriptive of the features and characters of countries, are the most permanent of any; for they generally remain, as memorials of the first inhabitants, notwithstanding all subsequent revolutions of languages. Even Sweden and Norway, like the rest of Europe, present such memorials, in the names of their rivers and mountains, which are inexplicable by the Gothic dialects of the present inhabitants; and which names appear to preserve the characteristics of a *Cimbric* origin. We may instance the *Dofrine Mountains*, which run south and north, like a backbone, dividing the low lands of Norway from the vales of Sweden: or, to use a *Cimbric word*, that form the *DYFRYN*, or *Vale*, on each side.

7. Our historical Triads say, that the first colony of the *Cymry* came to Britain in a direction from the present Denmark, originally called the Peninsula of the *Cimbri*: and it is worthy of remark, that they must have brought with them their name of *Lochlyn*, for the Baltic Sea; and which name is so perfectly descriptive of such an inland body of waters, that it could only have been applied by a people well acquainted with its form.

8. A dialect of the language, spoken by the ancient *Cymry*, is still preserved by the *Wendi* of Lusatia, who, in the time of *Orosius*, extended also over the present Sudermania, along the shore

of the Baltic eastward: and this dialect is the connecting link between the Welsh and the various dialects of the Slavonic.

In conclusion, allow me to express my regret, Mr. Editor, that your correspondent P. B. W. should have, this month, given strangers to our language room to doubt, as to the true derivation of the name of *Gwyddel*, when, certainly, it presents no doubt whatever to those who have a correct knowledge of the Welsh. P. B. W. shows a cultivated talent for general investigation; and, for that reason, his tracing *Gwyddel* from *Gwydd*, presence, or cognizance, is the most entitled to notice. He ought, however, to have known the derivation of the name to be from *Gwydd*, wood; and, also, that the terms *Gwyddel* and *Gwyddeli* are still used for a *copse of wood*, and *thickets*. And our bard *D. ab Gwilym* is a satisfactory evidence to the point, when he describes himself, in one of his adventures, to be "*is y cel' wyddeli*",—beneath the concealing *thickets*.*

HANESAI.

Dec. 7, 1820.

WELSH LINES AND EPITAPH.

To the EDITOR of the CAMBRO-BRITON.

SIR,—Reading an old Welsh MS. lately, I was much amused by the following finely descriptive accomplishments, as appertaining to the character of an ancient British chieftain:—

“SAITH CAMP A DDYLY FOD AR WR-BONEDDIG†;”

“Bod yn fardd ar ei fwrdd;
Bod yn oen yn ei ystafell;
Bod yn feudwy yn ei eglwys;
Bod yn baen ar yr heol;
Bod yn ddoeth yn ei ddadl;
Bod yn llew ar y maes;
Bod yn athraw yn ei dy.”

In the same old MS. I admired the following lines upon the subject of Iolo Goch's tenure. Probably, the land was the gift

* The mistake, for such it certainly is, to which Hanesai here alludes, is not chargeable upon P. B. W., but occurs in the “Preface by the late Rev. Evan Evans,” of which P. B. W. is merely the translator. Mr. Evans's error was adverted to in a note by the Editor. See No. 16, p. 156.—ED.

† There is, perhaps, a better copy of this production in the Arch. of Wales, vol. iii. p. 125. entitled “*Dewisav gwr Taliesin*,” which will be translated at a future opportunity.—ED.